

## 98th meeting of the EFSA Management Board – public session

**Location:** Parma and hybrid

Management Board participants	
Aivars BĒRZIŅŠ - Chair (Latvia)	Hrönn Ólína JÖRUNSDÓTTIR (Iceland)
Pamela BYRNE - Vice-Chair (Ireland)	Janne Britt KRAKHELLEN* (EFTA S.A.)
Gergana BALIEVA (Bulgaria)	Sanja MUSIĆ MILANOVIĆ (European Parliament)
Margaret BATESON-MISSEN* (Commission)	Szabolcs PÁSZTOR* (Hungary)
Tejs BINDERUP (Denmark)	Isabel PEÑA-REY (Spain)
Ingrid BORG (Malta)	Martin POLOVKA* (Slovakia)
Claire BURY* (Commission)	Susana POMBO* (Portugal)
Floriana CIMMARUSTI* (Consumer Org.s)	Egidijus PUMPUTIS (Lithuania)
Laszlo CSUTAK-NAGY* (Romania)	Marjatta RAHKIO (Finland)
Ugo DELLA MARTA (Italy)	Darja SOKOLIĆ (Croatia)
Herman DIRICKS (Belgium)	Annica SOLHSTRÖM (Sweden)
Jernej DROFENIK* (Slovenia)	Pille TAMMEMÄGI (Estonia)
Maira DZELZKALĒJA-BURMISTRE* (Farmers Org.)	Astrid THORS* (European Parliament)
Rebeca FERNANDEZ* (Industry Org.)	Marie-Luise TREBES (Germany)
Jindrich FIALKA (Czech Republic)	Benoît VALLET (France)
Ingunn Midttun GODAL (Norway)	Ana VILORIA* (The Netherlands)
Patrick HAU (Luxemburg)	Stelios YIANNOPOULOS (Cyprus)
Ulrich HERZOG (Austria)	

**Apologies:** Greece, Poland and Environmental NGOs.

Staff of the European Food Safety Authority	
Bernhard URL (Executive Director)	Carlos das NEVES
Lucia BILARDI	Peter DE PAUW
Gian Luca BONDURI	Pedro PINHAL
Dirk DETKEN	Guilhem de SEZE
Barbara GALLANI	Alberto SPAGNOLLI
Nikolaus Georg KRIZ	Selomey YAMADJAKO

**Also attending:**

Dominique TURCK, Chair of the Scientific Panel on Nutrition, Novel Food and Food Allergens \*



Simon MORE, Chair of the EFSA Scientific Committee

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## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

The Management Board **adopted**:

- The revised Independence Policy of EFSA, which will apply as of the adoption of its implementing rules. Meanwhile, the [current Policy](#) and [its implementing rules](#) will continue applying.
- The opinion on EFSA's accounts for the financial year 2023.
- The amendment of the EFSA budget 2024 and the changes to the EFSA budget structure for the year 2025.

In addition, the Board **noted**:

- The EFSA Performance Report, which provided information on the implementation of the Single Programming Document 2024-2026 reporting on the activities and the outcome achieved until April 2024.
- The annual report on the activities carried out by the EFSA Scientific Networks.
- The presentation providing the Management Board with an update on the development and implementation of Coordinated Communications, as per its founding legislation and the Transparency Regulation.
- The presentation on Stakeholder engagement activities, which updated the Management Board on engagement advice integrated into science planning, including focus on examples of diversity of methodologies and formats applied.
- The update from the Chair of the Scientific Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens, Prof. Dominique Turck, who presented the work of the NDA Panel.



Item 1: Welcome by the Chair.

1. Aivars Bērziņš, Management Board Chair, opened the 98<sup>th</sup> Management Board meeting by welcoming the Board members, Executive Director, Chair of the Scientific Committee, EFSA's Management Team, EFSA staff present and external observers.
2. The Chair informed the fellow Board members of the apologies received from Poland and reminded that no representative of the Environmental NGOs was present at the meeting since the procedure for their selection and appointment had not been finalised yet.
3. The audio-file on this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda.

4. The Management Board adopted by consensus the agenda of the meeting. The agenda was adopted with the addition of the following items under Any Other Business: (1) Feedback from the Stakeholder Bureau meeting held on 9 April 2024; (2) Feedback from the Advisory Forum meeting held on 22-23 May 2024.
5. The audio-file on this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 3: Board members' Annual and Oral Declarations of Interests.

6. Pursuant to Article 13 of the [Management Board Rules of Procedure](#), the Management Board took note of the Executive Director's assessment of the Declarations of Interests submitted by 35 of its members and confirmed it.
7. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 4: Accounts 2023 financial year.

8. Based on the presentation introduced by Pedro Pinhal (EFSA accountant) and noting the feedback provided by Herman Diricks from the Audit Committee meeting held on the previous day, the Management Board gave a positive opinion on EFSA's financial accounts for the previous year. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).
9. **Action:** EFSA to notify the Management Board's opinion to the EU competent authorities by 1 July 2024.

Item 5: EFSA Independence Policy.

10. Pamela Byrne, Chair of the Management Board sub-group on independence, introduced the draft Independence Policy of EFSA, which the sub-group had reviewed addressing the recommendations in the [report on the ex-post evaluation of EFSA's Independence Policy](#). The targeted amendments to the EFSA Independence Policy fall in the areas of 'Clarity and effectiveness', 'Sustainability' and 'Coherence and cooperation'. An Ad hoc action plan will address the evaluation recommendations in the area of 'Communication on independence'. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description.
11. Commending the work carried out by the sub-group on independence, the Management Board adopted by consensus the revised Independence Policy of EFSA, which will apply as of the adoption of its implementing rules. An update on the status of the implementation will be provided in Q4 2024. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 6: Amendments to the Article 36 list of organisations.

12. The Management Board noted the information from Barbara Gallani (Head of Communication and Partnership Department) that a written procedure for the update of the Article 36 list of



organisations will most likely be triggered between summer and autumn 2024. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 7: Amendment of the EFSA budget 2024 & budget structure 2025.

13. The Management Board adopted by consensus the Decision amending EFSA's budget 2024 with the release of surplus differentiated payment appropriations based on the updated forecast. In addition, the Management Board adopted the Decision revising the structure of the EFSA budget for the year 2025. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 8: EFSA performance report.

14. Bernhard Url (acting Executive Director) introduced to the Management Board the Performance Report covering the period from 1 January to 30 April 2024. The document includes information on all aspects of the EFSA performance against the Programming Document 2024-2026. Selomey Yamadjako (Head of Management Services Department) brought to the Management Board attention the data on the budget execution and transfers. The Management Board noted the first Performance Report of the year. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 9: Report on the activities of the EFSA Scientific Networks.

15. The Management Board noted the presentation of Nik Kriz (Head of Risk Assessment Services Department) on the annual report on the activities carried out by the EFSA Scientific Networks. The report includes information on the main deliverables, outcomes and budget of each Network. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 10: Feedback from the Audit Committee.

16. Herman Diricks, Chair of the Audit Committee, updated the Management Board on the outcome of the meeting held on the previous day. The Audit Committee endorsed the draft opinion on EFSA's accounts 2023, which the Management Board adopted when addressing item no. 4 of the meeting agenda (see paragraph 8 above). In addition, the Audit Committee noted: the report on the outstanding audit observations; presentation on the evolution of EFSA's budgetary expenditure; report on the implementation of the EFSA anti-fraud strategy; and information on the discharge of EFSA's budget 2022. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

Item 11: Coordinated communication.

17. The Management Board noted the presentation of Barbara Gallani (Head of Communication and Partnership Department) on EFSA's coordinated communication. The presentation provided an update on EFSA's coordinated communication approach, highlighting ongoing and future plans performed in cooperation with Member States. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

Item 12: Stakeholder engagement activities.

18. The Management Board noted the presentation of Barbara Gallani (Head of Communication and Partnership Department) on EFSA's stakeholder engagement activities. The presentation updated the Management Board on EFSA's engagement approach, highlighting its evolution to respond to scientific and societal demands, building on feedback received from stakeholders. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The



audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at the following [link](#).

19. **Action:** EFSA to engage the Focal Points on reflections around opportunities to strengthen communication on EFSA's stakeholder activities at national level.

Item 13: Update from the Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens.

20. Following the introduction by Prof. Simon More, Chair of the Scientific Committee, Prof. Dominique Turck provided the Management Board with an overview of the work carried out by the scientific Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens. A [PowerPoint presentation](#) is available online for a detailed description. The audio-file on the presentation and discussion of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).
21. The Management Board said farewell to Prof. Simon More, who participated for the last time in the Management Board meeting in his capacity of Chair of the Scientific Committee. The Management Board expressed gratitude to Prof. More for having contributed to EFSA's scientific work for more than 17 years.

Item 15: Any Other Business

22. The Chair gave a feedback to the Management Board on his participation in the EFSA Stakeholder Bureau meeting held on 9 April 2024. The Chair provided the Bureau with an update on the activities carried out by the Management Board, in particular highlighting the work on the review of EFSA's Independence Policy and on the selection of EFSA's next Executive Director. He underlined the fruitfulness of the meeting and stressed the importance of the role played by the Stakeholder Bureau as channel for EFSA to communicate and collaborate with representatives of the civil society and of the food chain. The audio-file on the presentation of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).
23. Barbara Gallani (Head of Communication and Partnership Department) updated the Management Board on the latest exchanges carried out in the framework the Advisory Forum meeting held on 22 and 23 May 2024. Among others, the Advisory Forum discussed around the report on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, ANSES' guidelines for establishing an animal welfare labeling, Germany activities in the area of safety of the game meat chain, the Focal Point operational framework and data collection & sharing. The meeting was attended by the Chair of the Management Board, who updated the Advisory Forum on the activities carried out by the Management Board, in particular highlighting the ongoing reflections on EFSA's partnership with the Member States for risk assessment, the work on the review of EFSA's Independence Policy and on the selection of EFSA's next Executive Director. The audio-file on the presentation of this agenda item is available online at this [link](#).

**Summary of actions**

Action reference	Action	Deadline	Status
June 20, 2024 - 1	EFSA to notify the Management Board's opinion on EFSA's accounts 2023 to the EU competent authorities.	1 July 2024	DONE
June 20, 2024 - 2	EFSA to engage the Focal Points on reflections around opportunities to strengthen communication on EFSA's stakeholder activities at national level.	September 2024	OPEN